

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 11, and 13, and add new Claims 20-22, as indicated below. The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently Amended): An imaging apparatus comprising:

an image capture unit;

an encoding unit configured to encode a moving picture signal output by said image capture unit, using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and to generate an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

~~a control panel~~ an instruction unit configured to ~~receive~~ provide an instruction ~~from a user~~ to start a recording of the encoded images signal;

a recording unit configured to record, in response to the instruction, the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit, on a recording medium;

a communications unit configured to communicate the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit to an external device while the signal is in an encoded state; ~~wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded; and~~

a controller configured to control, upon detection of the instruction ~~[[and]]~~ while the encoded image signal is being transmitted to the external device, said recording unit to start recording the encoded image signal ~~from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction,~~

wherein said controller controls said recording unit to record the encoded image signal from a beginning of a picture group containing a frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected if the frame is an interframe-encoded picture.

2. (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said recording unit has a memory for storing the equivalent of one picture group of the moving picture signal generated by said encoding unit.

3. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller further controls said recording unit so as to record identification information, which indicates the frame corresponding to when the instruction was detected, in the picture group at the portion where recording starts.

4. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller controls said encoding unit and said recording unit to start recording by said recording

unit if the frame corresponding to when the instruction is an interframe-encoded picture without the frame corresponding to the instruction being encoded as an intraframe-encoded picture.

7. - 8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the leading frame of each picture group is the intraframe-encoded picture.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended): A recording apparatus comprising:

an input unit configured to input a moving picture signal;

an encoding unit configured to encode the moving picture signal input by said input unit, using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and to generate an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

~~a control panel~~ an instruction unit configured to ~~receive~~ provide an instruction from a user to start a recording of the encoded image signal;

a recording unit configured to record, in response to the instruction, the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit, on a recording medium;

a communication unit configured to communicate the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit, to an external device while the signal is in an encoded state; ~~wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded; and~~

a controller configured to control, upon detection of the instruction ~~[[and]]~~ while the encoded image signal is being transmitted to the external device, said recording unit to start recording the encoded image signal ~~from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction,~~

wherein said controller controls said recording unit to record the encoded image signal from a beginning of a picture group containing a frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected if the frame is an interframe-encoded picture.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended): A recording method comprising:

an input step of inputting a moving picture signal;

an encoding step of encoding the input moving picture signal using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and generating an encoded image signal comprising a plurality of picture groups each comprising n (where n represents an integer equal to or greater than 2) frames of an image signal including intraframe-encoded pictures obtained by the intraframe encoding and interframe-encoded pictures obtained by the interframe encoding;

~~an instruction~~ a detection step of detecting an instruction instructing a start of a recording of the encoded images signal;

a recording step of recording, in response to the instructing, the encoded image signal on a recording medium;

a transmitting step of transmitting the encoded image signal to an external device while the signal is in an encoded state, ~~wherein the encoded image signal is transmitted to the external device while the encoded image signal is not recorded;~~ and

a control step of controlling, upon detection of the instruction ~~during~~ while the encoded image signal is being transmitted to the external device, said recording step to start recording the encoded image signal ~~from the leading end of a picture group that contains a frame, which corresponds to the instruction,~~

wherein said control step controls said recording step to record the encoded image signal from a beginning of a picture group containing a frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected if the frame is an interframe-encoded picture.

14. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The recording apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a buffer memory configured to store a plurality of frames of the encoded image signal encoded by said encoding unit,

wherein said controller controls, if the frame is the interframe picture, said recording unit to read out the encoded image signal from the buffer unit from the beginning of the picture group and to record the read image signal.

21. (New) A recording apparatus comprising:

an input unit configured to input a moving picture signal;

an encoding unit configured to encode the moving picture signal input by said input unit, using intraframe encoding and interframe encoding, and to generate an encoded image signal;

an instruction unit configured to provide an instruction from a user to start a recording of the encoded image signal;

a recording unit configured to record, in response to the instruction, the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit, on a recording medium;

a communication unit configured to communicate the encoded image signal generated by said encoding unit, to an external device while the signal is in an encoded state; and

a controller configured to control, upon detection of the instruction while the encoded image signal is being transmitted to the external device, said recording unit to start recording the encoded image signal,

wherein said controller controls said recording unit to record the encoded image signal from a frame that is an intraframe-encoded picture and is required to decode a frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected, if the frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected is an interframe-encoded picture.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising:

a buffer memory configured to store a plurality of frames of the encoded image signal encoded by said encoding unit,

wherein said controller controls, if the frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected is the interframe picture, said recording unit to read out the image signal starting from the frame, starting the frame required to decode the frame corresponding to when the instruction is detected from the buffer unit and to record the read image signal.